

county committee), as to the preliminary count of the votes on each question and the number of challenged ballots as soon as possible. The county committee shall, as soon as may be reasonably possible, but in no event later than 4 calendar days after canvassing of the ballots, have prepared and certified the county summary of ballots. Such summary shall be prepared and certified in triplicate, one copy of which shall be sent to the State committee, one copy posted for 30 calendar days in a conspicuous place accessible to the public in or near the office of the county committee, and one copy filed in the office of the county committee and kept available for public inspection.

(b) *State committee.* The State committee for each State shall notify the Deputy Administrator by telephone or telegraph as to the preliminary count of the votes in the State as soon as the preliminary results of the referendum are made known to the State committee. The county summaries of ballots shall be summarized on the State summary of ballots as soon as possible, but in no event later than 7 calendar days after canvassing of the ballots, unless there is a dispute or challenge regarding the correctness of the summary for any county, in which case the State committee shall complete its investigation thereof, decide the dispute or challenge, and prepare the State summary accordingly within 14 calendar days after canvassing of the ballots. The State summary shall be prepared in triplicate and certified to by the State executive director. The original and one copy of the State summary shall be forwarded to the Director of the FSA Division having the responsibility for the commodity for which the referendum was held. One copy of the State summary shall be filed for a period of 5 years in the office of State committee available for public inspection.

[Amdt. 1, 34 FR 12940, Aug. 9, 1969]

MISCELLANEOUS

§ 717.23 Applicability of this part to Puerto Rico.

The Caribbean Area Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Com-

mittee shall be in charge of and responsible for conducting in Puerto Rico each referendum required by the Act. Insofar as applicable, the Caribbean Area ASC Committee shall perform all the duties and assume all the responsibilities otherwise required of State and county committees as provided in this part, except that (a) the Director, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Caribbean Area Office shall nominate for appointment by the Caribbean Area ASC Committee the members and alternates to serve on community referendum committees and shall establish the boundaries of referendum communities in such a manner that polling places therein will be conveniently located for the farmers eligible to vote in the referendum, and (b) following the canvass of the ballots, results of the referendum shall be reported to the Caribbean Area ASC Committee.

§ 717.24 Result of referendum.

(a) *Proclamation of result.* The final and official tabulation of the votes cast in the referendum shall be made by the Deputy Administrator and the result of the referendum will be publicly proclaimed and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The State summaries and related papers shall be filed with such tabulation for a period of 5 years available for public inspection in the Department of Agriculture.

(b) *Unofficial announcements of result.* Each county committee is authorized to issue unofficial reports of the total "Yes" and "No" votes in its county to the press and the public. Each State committee is authorized to issue to the press and the public the unofficial result of the referendum in its State by counties as rapidly as the votes in the various counties are reported to it.

(c) *Investigations.* If the Deputy Administrator or the Secretary deems it necessary, the report of any community referendum committee, county committee, or State committee shall be reexamined and checked by such persons or agents as may be designated.